

ACCESS TO JUSTICE UPDATE

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The Justice Action Group is a coalition of individuals and organizations established in 1995 to provide leadership and coordination in planning for the provision of civil legal aid to low-income and elderly Mainers.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- JAG's fourth annual Access to Justice Day will be held on March 13, 2012
- The Muskie Dinner: May 30, 2012
- JAG Board Meeting: June 5, 2012
- Katahdin Counsel Pro Bono Recognition Week: October 22-26, 2012

ACCESS TO JUSTICE DAY MARCH 13, 2012

On March 13, 2012 JAG will present the fourth annual Access to Justice Day at the Statehouse. Please join us in the Hall of Flags between the hours of 8 am and 3 pm to share your appreciation of the work of Maine's legal aid providers.

CHANGING MAINE... THE 2012 ACCESS TO JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM

The 2012 Access to Justice Symposium, *Changing Maine: Serving the Legal Needs of Maine's Growing Aging and Immigrant Populations*, held at the Sable Oaks Marriot in South Portland in conjunction with the MSBA Winter Bar Meeting was a success.

Feedback has been excellent for both the Wednesday panel event and the access to justice breakout sessions at the Winter Bar Meeting. The keynote address by Judge Fern Fisher, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for New York City Courts, Chair of the New York State Access to Justice Commission, and a recognized expert in the delivery

As in the past, we will provide legislators with valuable resources to aid their constituents, as well as information regarding how providing access to justice benefits Maine's businesses and the greater Maine community and economy.



Hon. Fern A. Fisher and the Hon. Jon D. Levy

Photograph by Martha Mickels

of justice to a diverse population presented creative and ground-breaking solutions to access to justice barriers.

Particular thanks to MSBA President Anne-Marie Storey, the extraordinary staff at the MSBA and

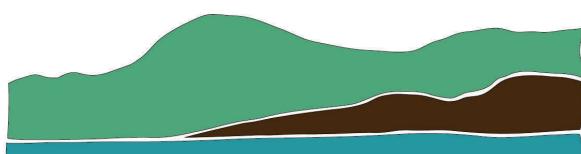
the 2012 Access to Justice Planning Committee who donated untold hours to making this event a reality and a success.

Your comments and suggestions for future symposia are welcome at:

cwilshusen@mbf.org.

You can find materials from the entire program at:

<http://www.mainebar.org/2012am/materials/2012AMmaterials.html>



Award Year 2013

KATAHDIN

Counsel Recognition Program

HONORING PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICE IN MAINE

The Katahdin Counsel

Recognition Program was created by the Maine Supreme Judicial Court in response to a proposal of the Justice Action Group, Maine's access to justice commission, in order to focus the public's attention on the

critical help address the growing role that unmet legal need.

pro bono publico plays in maintaining a vibrant civil justice system. The goals of the program are twofold: first, to annually recognize and honor the pro bono work of Maine's lawyers, and second, to encourage more lawyers to provide such services for Maine's low-income and elderly residents in order to

Maine lawyers are among the most generous in the nation in donating their time to pro bono representation for people who cannot afford an attorney and in donating money to support Maine's legal aid providers. Sadly, in the face of Maine's current economy, the need continues to rise while the resources, such as IOLTA, continue to decrease.

A Commission has been established by the Maine Supreme Judicial Court to oversee the program and

ensure that it is responsive to the needs of the Maine Bar.

Commission on the Katahdin Counsel Recognition Program

Ralph I. Lancaster, Jr., Chair

Thomas A. Berry

Virginia E. Davis

David J. Fletcher

Nan Heald

Kerry Clark Jordan.

Barbara L. Raimondi

Charles W. Smith.

Juliet Holmes-Smith

Court Liaison:

Justice Jon D. Levy

JUSTICE FOR ALL: THE FACES OF LEGAL AID IN MAINE

By Calien Lewis

We spend much of our time trying to illustrate the stories of Mainers in need of legal aid. We talk about seniors who may lose their homes, young mothers fighting for their children's education, and immigrants trying to reunite with

their families. People throughout our state face difficulties trying to access the rights they deserve every day, and yet they are often invisible to the general public. This March in the Atrium of the Cultural Building in the State House Complex, Augusta, we are shining a light on those people

with Martha Mickles' photography exhibit: "Justice for All: The Faces of Legal Aid in Maine" supported by the Maine Bar Foundation. This exhibit chronicles the people in need of civil legal help in Maine as well as those providing it.

(Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 5 PM;
Saturday 9 AM – 2 PM).

We encourage you to visit the exhibit and bring a friend. The more people who see the actual faces of people in need of legal assistance, the better able we are to assist them.

The exhibit will move to the Portland Public Library in April.

JAG WELCOMES MSBA PRESIDENT ANNE-MARIE STOREY



ANNE-MARIE STOREY Esq.

A Partner at Rudman Winchell in Bangor Maine, Anne-Marie is a graduate of Middlebury College, after which she served as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand. Anne-Marie then graduated cum laude from Vermont Law School, where she was a Notes Editor for the Vermont Law Review.

Anne-Marie's practice areas include Employment and Labor Law, Workers' Compensation Law, Legal Education for Clients, and Mediation and Arbitration. She is a frequent speaker to human resource professionals and other groups on employment related topics, and regularly contributes articles to various business-related publications.

PRIVATE SECTOR OUTREACH

Several prominent Maine business leaders have joined with Maine's legal services community to create a task force to build awareness of the need of the business community to become more actively involved in providing access to justice in Maine.

The Justice Action Group's Task Force on Outreach to Maine's Private Sector will examine how Maine's

legal services programs and pro bono initiatives affect Maine's fully examine and develop the private sector and the Maine connection between a vibrant economy. It will then develop civil justice system and the communication strategies and interests of Maine's private other steps needed to promote sector."

an effective relationship between the equal access to justice community and the private sector.

Supreme Court Justice Jon Gildart, former Vice-President D. Levy, chair of JAG, described of Human Resources for Bath the initiative, "this is an effort Iron Works. They will be joined to bring together a group of by: Miles F. Archer, Esq.

The Task Force will be co-chaired by the Hon. John H. Rich III, the U.S. Magistrate Judge in Portland, and Kevin

UNUM Vice President & Chief Insurance Operations Counsel; Janet Vivar Britton, Esq., Legal Counsel at Hannaford Bros. Co.; Charles S. Colgan of the Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service at the University of Southern Maine; Dana F. Connors, President of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce; Sara Gagné-Holmes, Esq., Executive Director of Maine Equal Justice Partners; Brenda Garrand, CEO Garrand; and Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, CEO of Goodwill Industries of Northern New England.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE COORDINATOR

Hanna Sanders, Esq. was recently named as the Access to Justice Coordinator for the State of Maine Judicial Branch. As a former senior staff attorney with Legal Services for the Elderly, Hanna provided advocacy on behalf of Maine's vulnerable elders, with a special interest in financial exploitation and abuse. Hanna was inspired to attend law school after navigating the court system as a pro se

litigant, and graduated from the University of Maine School of Law in 2005. In her prior life, Hanna worked as an archaeologist in Central America, as project and accounts manager for the housing industry, and with various non-profit and corporate institutions. Hanna is the author of several publications, including the lead article in the Maine Law Review symposium edition

"Accessing Justice in Hard Times." Her penchant for social justice is long-standing, and she is committed to empowering Maine's most vulnerable populations.



Hanna Sanders, Esq.

NAN HEALD NAMED BY WHITEHOUSE AS CHAMPION FOR CHANGE



This Fall, Pine Tree Legal Assistance Executive Director Nan Heald was named a Champion of Change by the Whitehouse. At ceremonies in Washington, DC, the Whitehouse stated that "these Champions of Change are assisting people in need by dedicating their professional lives to closing the justice gap in America."

To watch a video of the full event at the Whitehouse go to:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/champions/previous/legal-leaders>

We are on the web!

www.mbf.org/jag.html

JUSTICE ACTION GROUP

Justice Action Group Board of Directors:

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Eric Stauffer ♦ Anne-Marie Storey
Caroline Wilshusen, JAG Executive Coordinator

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JAG Intern Taylor Kilgore

JAG has been fortunate this year to have the services of Maine Law Class of 2013, Taylor Kilgore. Taylor has shown extraordinary energy and commitment to access to justice issues and has generously given her time to multiple JAG initiatives including the 2012 Access to Justice Symposium and the Katahdin Counsel Recognition Program. She is also Maine Law's ABA Representative, on the MAPIL Event and Fundraising Committee and a CASA Guardian *ad litem*. JAG is grateful to Taylor for sharing her time and talents with us.

CAMPAIGN FOR JUSTICE

The Campaign for Justice welcomes new Campaign Coordinator, Cathy Coffman.

Cathy has over twenty-five years of experience working for and consulting with nonprofits. She has held positions across the spectrum of nonprofit advancement and management. Her fund-raising positions have included being in charge of annual, major, capital and planned giving, and her communications positions have ranged from lead public relations officer to publications editor. For nine years,

she served as both director of advancement and chief financial officer at Thornton Academy in Saco, Maine.

Cathy is working with Campaign Chair Charlie Dingman and CFJ Steering Committee Chair Jim Munch, to establish new and creative ways to increase funding for the legal aid providers.



Cathy Coffman
Campaign Coordinator